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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
Group Art Unit 1641

In re

Patent Application of

Thierry Gicquel, et al.

Serial No. 09/554,167

Filed: July 11, 2000

Examiner: K. Padmanabhan

I, Karen Brandt, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the US Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date of my signature.

Karen Brandt  
Signature

7-26-02  
Date of Signature

"REACTION VESSELS, A SET OF SUCH  
VESSELS, AND AN IMMUNOLOGICAL  
ASSAY METHOD AND APPARATUS  
IMPLEMENTING SUCH SETS OF VESSELS"

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment accompanies the filing of a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal.

Please amend the claims as follows.

**IN THE CLAIMS**

16. (New) A reaction vessel for automatic apparatus for immunological assay, the vessel comprising walls in the form of a vessel for receiving a sample to be tested, a test reagent, and a substrate coupled with a chemiluminescent substance, and also a filling opening, wherein the walls are proof against any light emitted by the chemiluminescent substance, and the filling opening corresponds to a window for reading the intensity of any light emitted by the reaction mixture formed by the sample to be tested, the reagent, and the substrate, and wherein the filling opening is completely surrounded by a planar rim against which means for forming a temporary dark chamber, having a light-proof shoe that is proof against external light, is pressed.

*Claim 3*

*Sub  
FI*

*61*